

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2003, Applicants amend the application and request reconsideration. In the Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and claims 3 and 4 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4 are now pending and under examination.

The amendments to claims 1 and 2 are supported by the application as originally filed (see, for example, page 1, last paragraph). New claims 3 and 4 are also supported by the application as originally filed (see, for example, original claims 1 and 2, the last paragraph of page 1, and the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6).

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Nagai et al. (U.S. Patent 5,501,530). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to amended claims 1 and 2.

The bearing of amended claims 1 and 2 is designed for use in a small motor for an information-processing device. As recited in amended claims 1 and 2, the bearing is designed to operate at a speed between 15,000 rpm and 20, 000 rpm. The bearing of Nagai et al., on the other hand, a wheel bearing of a vehicle and is designed to operate at much lower speed. Therefore, Nagai et al. does not teach a bearing designed to operate at a speed between 15,000 rpm and 20, 000 rpm. Consequently, amended claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Nagai et al.

Furthermore, the claimed invention is used to improve a bearing's lubrication condition when the bearing is operated at a high speed. The bearing of Nagai et al., on the other hand, is used to improve its rolling fatigue life. There is no teaching or suggestion in Nagai et al. that its bearing can be used to improve the lubrication condition of a high-speed bearing used in a small motor for an information-processing device.

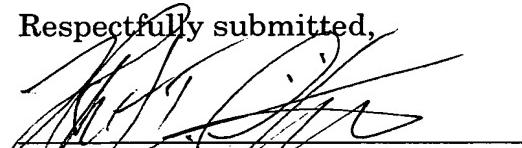
For the same reasons as discussed above, new claims 3 and 4 are patentable over Nagai et al. In addition, each of new claims 3 and 4 recites that the internal radial gap of the bearing is geometrically set in the range from 0.008 to 0.13 mm. This limitation is not taught or suggested by Nagai et al.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #152/50453).

Respectfully submitted,

March 27, 2003

  
Herbert I. Cantor  
Registration No. 24,392

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
HIC:SZ:tlm (029341.50453US)